NERLSCD 2026
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

12:00 – 5:00pm	REGISTRATION OPEN **Location: Fireside at Rubin Center**
	KEYSTONE SPONSOR PRE-MEETING WORKSHOPS
1:15 – 2:45pm	Qiagen Pre-Meeting Workshop: "*Try Something New from QIAGEN! Whet your Appetite with Some Taste Testing of Appetizers and Drinks*" Speaker: Samuel J. Rulli, Jr. **Location: Innovation Studio 203**
1:15 – 2:45pm	New England Biolabs Pre-Meeting Workshop: "*Partnering for Core Lab Success: NEBNext Solutions and the NEBNext Alliance Program*" Speaker: Siva Chavadi **Location: Innovation Studio 205**
3:00 – 4:30pm	Illumina Pre-Meeting Workshop Speakers: TBD **Location: Innovation Studio 203**
3:00 – 4:30pm	Waters Biosciences (formerly BD Biosciences) Pre-Meeting Workshop Speakers: TBD **Location: Innovation Studio 205**
3:00 – 5:00pm	NORTHEAST CORE ADMIN (NE-CAN) Meeting: "*Focusing on the Impact of Current/Future Funding Environments*" **Location: Innovation Studio, I&E Room, 2nd Floor**
6:00 – 8:30pm	OPENING RECEPTION **Location: Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St, Worcester MA**

Thursday, October 15, 2026

6:30 – 7:30am	Morning Walking Group – Meet in Marriott Lobby			
8:00am	REGISTRATION OPEN **Location: Fireside at Rubin Center**			
8:00 – 9:00am	BREAKFAST **Location: Rubin Campus Center 3rd Floor**			
9:00 – 9:15am	WELCOME: Andrew Sears, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) **Location: Odeum B&C**			
9:15 – 10:05am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 1: *"Massachusetts Biomedical Innovation Hub"* Eric Young, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering, WPI **Location: Odeum B&C**			
10:05 – 10:15am	KEYSTONE SPONSOR 1: QIAGEN **Location: Odeum B&C**			
10:15 – 10:30am	MORNING BREAK & NETWORKING			
10:30 – 11:30am	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1			
	"Building a Collaborative Partnership with a Core: Perspective from Metabolomics & Mass Spec Cores" Chair: Caroline Chidley (UMass Chan) **Location: Innovation Studio 203**	*"Every Cell is Sacred: Single Cell for Precious Samples"* Chair: Stuart Levine (MIT) **Sponsor: 10X Genomics** **Location: Innovation Studio, I&E Room, 2nd Floor**	*"Applications of AI in Core Facility Administration"* Chair: Ermal Toto (WPI) **Location: Innovation Studio 205**	*"Seeing is Believing: Inside the Structural Biology Toolkit"* Chair: Marimar Lopez (RPI) **Sponsor: Opentrons** **Location: Innovation Studio 105**
11:45 – 1:00pm	LUNCH & NETWORKING **Location: Rubin Campus Center 3rd Floor**			
1:00 – 2:30pm	CONCURRENT PROGRAM OPTION A: CORE TOURS (See Registration Desk for Details and Sign-Up) CONCURRENT PROGRAM OPTION B: 101 SESSIONS			
	"Flow Cytometry 101" Speaker: Dan Mielcarz (Dartmouth) **Location: Odeum B&C**	*"Electron Microscopy 101"* Speaker: Ben Myers (Yale) **Location: Odeum B&C**	"*AI-Assisted Bioinformatics: Responsible, Reproducible, and Practical"* Speaker: Alper Kucukural (UMass Chan) **Location: Odeum B&C**	
2:30 – 3:30pm	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2: "*Importance of Cores to Clinical and Translational Research*" Speaker: Katherine Luzuriaga, UMass Chan Medical School **Location: Odeum B&C**			

3:30 – 3:40pm	KEYSTONE SPONSOR 2: New England Biolabs **Location: Odeum B&C**			
3:40 – 4:00pm	AFTERNOON BREAK & NETWORKING			
4:00 – 5:00pm	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2			
	"How Imaging Core Staff Can Guide Users Toward Better Experimental Design & Data" Chair: Heather Brown-Harding (Brandeis University) **Location: Innovation Studio, I&E Room, 2nd Floor**	*"Spatial Transcriptomics Across Model and Non-Model Systems: From Bench to Bioinformatics"* Chair: Elizabeth Pritchett (University of Rochester) **Sponsor: IDT Location: Innovation Studio 203**	*"From Positions to Interests: Negotiation Fundamentals that Change the Game"* Chair: Tim Bushnell (URMC) **Location: Innovation Studio 105**	*"Challenges and Successes with Sample Processing Workflows in Long Read Sequencing"* Chair: Sridar Chittur (Univ at Albany) **Sponsor: Takara Location: Innovation Studio 205**
5:15 - 6:30pm	VENDOR SHOW			
6:30pm - ?	DINNER ON YOUR OWN			
9:30pm - ?	NERLSCD Afterdark **Location: Courtyard by Marriott**			

Friday, October 16, 2026

6:30 – 7:30am	Morning Walking Group – Meet in Marriott Lobby			
8:00am	REGISTRATION OPEN **Location: Fireside at Rubin Center**			
8:00 – 9:00am	BREAKFAST **Location: Rubin Campus Center 3rd Floor**			
9:00 – 10:00am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 3: "*State Funding of Research Infrastructure*" Speaker: Audrey Byrne, Mass Life Science Center **Location: Odeum B&C**			
10:00 – 10:15am	KEYSTONE SPONSOR 3: Waters Biosciences **Location: Odeum B&C**			
10:15 – 10:30am	MORNING BREAK & NETWORKING			
10:30 –11:45am	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3			
	"Incubators as Launchpads: Supporting Startup Success" Chair: MaryAnn Picard (UMass Lowell) **Location: Innovation Studio 203**	*"Spatial Analysis"* Chair: Ioannis Vlachos (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center) **Location: Innovation Studio 205**	*"Imaging Flow: From the Bench to the Bay"* Chair: Tim Bushnell (URMC) **Location: Innovation Studio 105**	*"Bridging the Gap: Materials Science Meets Biology"* Chair: Marimar Lopez (RPI) **Location: Innovation Studio I&E Room, 2nd Floor**
11:45am – 1:00pm	LUNCH **Location: Rubin Campus Center 3rd Floor**			
12:15 – 12:25pm	KEYSTONE SPONSOR 4: Illumina **Location: Odeum B&C**			
12:25 – 1:15pm	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 4: "*Research Infrastructure as an Intervention for Emerging Fields, A Case Study in the Food Economy"* Speaker: Matt McNulty, Associate Director, Center for Cellular Agriculture, Tufts University **Location: Odeum B&C**			
1:15 – 1:30pm	TOM VOLKERT MEMORIAL MENTORSHIP AWARD & CONCLUDING REMARKS Presented by Dan Mielcarz, Ph.D., NERLSCD President **Location: Odeum B&C**			
	SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN ROCHESTER FOR NERLSCD 2027!			

WPI Campus Map: